LEATHER:

A Discourse, Tendered to the High Court of PARLIAMENT.

OF
- The Generall vse of *Leather*.
- The generall Abuse thereof.
- The good which may arise to Great *Brittaine* from the Reformation.
- The seuerall Statutes made in that behalfe, by our Ancient Kings.

And lastly, a Petition to the High Court of Parliament, that out of their pious Care to their Countrey, they would bee pleased to take into Consideration, the Redresse of all old Abuses, and by adding some Remedies of their owne, to cut off the New.

LONDON,
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LEATHER:

A Discourse, Intended to the High Court
of PARLIAMENT.

The Contents of this Diſcourſe.

Irſt, a proœme or Induction to it.

Secondly, a Compariſon made betweene the Commodities of other Countries, and this of our owne: and then is ſhewed the generall vſe of Leather.

Thirdly, are layd open ſeuerall abuſes offered to England *by Tranſporting her Leather into forraigne Kingdomes.*

Fourthly, is deliuered what profit to the King, and what good to the Subiect ſhall ariſe, by a due Reformation of the abuſes.

Fiftly, are brought in ſeuerall Statutes made by our Ancient Kings, and pleading in that behalfe.

Sixtly and laſtly, a Petition to the High Court of Parliament, that they would be pleaſed to looke vpon their Coutry, and Cure her of theſe enormities,

A Discourse concerning Leather, tendered to the High Court of PARLIAMENT.

KIngdomes are Pallaces built by the great Architect of the world, for Monarches to dwell in; Nations the Courtiers; euery common Subiect an Officer attending there vpon his Soueraigne. The higher men are seated, the broader and stronger ought their shoulders to be, in supportation of that State, which they are to beare vp: whilst the hard-handed Artificer & poorest Mechanicke, are parts & pieces of that Scaffolding, which serues to strengthen the Glory of so Magnificent a Structure. For though Kings are the Maister Bees in their full and swelling Hyues; Subiects may well be called those *Minores Apes*, which fly euery day to bring home the Honey.

And albeit Earth be the proper and maine foundation of these Kingdomes, yet the best and soundest

Timber to raiſe the Buildings vp; the moſt curious Adornings, Beautifyings, and Embelliſhinges of them, when they are vp, (yea, euen at the erecting of the firſt Story) are Wiſe, Profound, Polliticke, and wholeſome Lawes.

Without Lawes, all Nations are lame, and Soueraignty it ſelfe walkes vpon Crutches; Authority lyes ſicke of a Conſumption, and none (at ſuch times) haue able bodyes, but Inſolence, and the Rage of the harrowiug multitude. The Beaſt with many heads, will then be Head of all; And when ſuch a Head is diſtracted, how can the limbes bee but laid vpon the Racke, and torne in peices?

It hath euer therefore beene a Cuſtome in all Countries, (eſpecially in this of ours) to Inuent, Enact, and Eſtabliſh good Ordinances, and Statutes to ſerue two vſes: One as a Snaffle to be thruſt into the mouthes of the head-ſtrong; The other as a ſeuenfold ſhield to protect the obedient.

Yet, as there can be no concord in Muſicke without diſcord; as the beſt-working-Medicines are tempered with poyſon; as the Nobleſt and cleareſt Riuers, haue by-wayes, creekes, and crooked windings; ſo there is no ſtratagems proiected, how beneficiall ſoeuer to a Kingdome, but ſome buſie-pated, and maleuolent ſpirits, are raiſed out of hell by ſorcerous Charmes, to Croſſe, and Counter-mine it. Hence it comes, that if the whole race of man, ſhould ſtudy how to ſteere the Helme of a Common wealth, by a ſtrong & ſteddy hand, yet whirlewinds will bee raiſed on ſhore, and tempeſts hurle

downe their malice in thunder and lightning at ſea to ſhip-wracke, the Induſtry, Courage, and knowledge of thoſe excellent Pilots..

Let Law bee neuer ſo ſweetly ſtrung, there are medling ſpitefull fingers, which can put it out of tune. Abuſes euen of the beſt things grow apace, and ſpred their Branches, ouer the largeſt Dominions; but amendments can hardly take rooting in the narroweſt Cities.

Looke backe vpon the Raignes of our Ancient Kings, vpon the honourable Courts of Parliament holden in their ages; vpon the Wiſedome, Iudgement, Councell, Grauity, & Sincerity of both Houſes (Vpper, and Lower) then Aſſembled: vpon the Lawes (the excellent Lawes) thoſe men made; and vpon the care, deliberation, and ſerious reſolution they tooke in the conſtitution, compriſing, and compoſing of thoſe Lawes: yet what Statutes, how ſtrongly ſoeuer knit then together, but by the Pawes of Lyons (great men) haue been ſince rent in ſunder, mangled, and miſuſed; or by the ſubtilty of Foxes (blood ſuckers of States) haue had holes eaten into them, and beene broken through, as if they had been the Cob-webbe-lawne of Spiders?

The ſame infection raignes now; corruption of goodneſſe will neuer dye: enormities once crept into Kingdomes, ſure are whole breſted monſters, and tis long ere their hearts will breake. The ſweeteſt Springs are nipt in the bloſſome, the faireſt Trees eaten by Caterpillers, and the nobleſt land hath her bowels gnawne out by Vipers of her own breeding.

Who

Who are thoſe Vipers? Men, (euill minded men) that care not (ſo their owne turnes be ſeru'de,) what Lawes they peruert, what Statutes they Infrindge, what cuſtomes they violate, what Orders they breake, on what ſacred Vrnes of our Engliſh Kings, they commit ſacriledge, by ſtealing from them the reuerence due to their names, for calling Honourable Parliaments, Councels, and Conſultations together, how to preſerue in health, this Royall Kingdome; or if any by-diſorders, and miſdemeanors, ſhould ſtricke her ſicke, how to cure her.

I leaue the maine Ocean to expert Nauigators; it is onely a poore Riuolet, that I craue pardon to Row in; and thus it runnes;

The generall vſe of Leather.

The

The generall vse of *Leather.*

THe heauenly Distributer of blessings, hath with so excellent a moderation and iudgement parted them amongst Nations, That what one Abounds in, the other Wants; or, if any one hath share in her neighbours Benefits, it is not a Superfluous heape, but a Husbandly and sparing handfull: so that the World is the great Vine, and euery Kingdome a Proppe to support the Branches, and make them flourish.

Here will I spread the Table, and on it plant some of the Dishes belonging to this Banquet.

The *West-Indies* open their wombe, and are deliuered of their Golden Ingotts: these are the King of *Spaines* best Sonnes, whom he sends forth to fight against and Conquer (if he can) all Christendome. Other Countries on the *American* shore haue their peculiar Indowments: Some boast of their seuerall-Grained-Woodes, accomodable to Rare and extraordinary excellent vses: Some of *Tobacco*; some of Fishing; all can speake of their owne particular Rarities, and all are profitable, and vsefull amongst Countries farre remote from them.

Let vs come neerer home, and looke into our next

Neighbours Orchards, Walkes, and delicate Gardens.

Spaine is proud of her fat Wines, her Oyles, Iron, Hides, and her Golden Apples of the Hesperides: *France* glories in her Vineyards, her Salt-pittes, and Marble-Quarries: *Germanie* of her 17 Rich and Warlike Daughters, sitting Inthroned with the abundance of all things about them: *Russia* layes before you the costly Furres, and the rich Skinnes of Beasts: the Easterne Countries are happy in their Mastes, Cables, Flaxe, Hempe, Rozzen, Pitch, Tare, Turpentine, &c.

And this, the Almighty Benefactor does, to the intent (with a *Manus manum fricat*,) the fire of one Country should Thaw the Ice of another; the Fulnesse of one, supply the others Emptinesse; and so be euer mindfull of the good turnes receiued, with a study of requitall: *Quæ mihi præstiteris memini, semperque tenebo.*

So that by this meanes, they being seuerally beholden to Forreners, and Strangers vnknowne, may loue together (though liuing neuer so farre a sunder) like vnited Friends, Allies, and Neighbours.

This participation of the Fruites, and Comodities, which one Land suffers to be made with another, opens a Free-Market to all Commerce. It is a Noble Mart, to which the Christian and Turke are inuited alike. This is the Golden Chaine of Trafficke and Negotiation, which doth *Concatenare* (tye) Merchants of farre-seperated Countries so fast together,

ther, as if they dwelt in their owne. This increaſes Shipping, aduances the trade of Fiſhing, Nourceth vp Mariners, and makes vs as familiar Inhabitants and Tennants to the Sea, as the Farmer and Huſbandman are to the Land.

And as theſe fore-named Kingdomes, haue their Royall Magazines and Store-houſes, ſo hath *England* Hers: For when ſhee vnlockes her Treaſurie, There you may behold, Mynes of Tynne, Leade, and Iron: What Kingdome in the world hath goodlier and greater Cattell to feede Man, and doe him ſeruice? And where nobler Paſture then here to fatten Beaſts? Where larger Sheepe? where Flockes ſo numerous? where better and more vſefull Woolle? What Fields can pleaſe the eye, for Graſſe, or fill the Barnes with heauier ſheaues of Corne? where ſits any people by warmer fiers? our Sea-coale Pits, being able (if not abuſed) to furniſh the whole Iland, and to lend Feuell to Neighbouring Nations.

And yet, if truely you caſt vp the Accompts, of all thoſe rich Merchandizes in Forraigne Kingdomes, and ballance them with theſe of our owne, you ſhal finde that not one of them all, (either abroad or at home) are able for common vſe, extraordinary imployment, inforced neceſſitie, vnratable value, and vnmatchable goodneſſe, to compare with our *Engliſh Leather*.

We can liue without the Gold *Peru*; the Trees of *Braſile*; the ſmoake of *Virginia*; and the Whales of *New-found Land*. What need haue wee of the hot

Spaniſh, or coole *French* Grape? without *Ruſsiaes* Furres, wee haue Cloth of our owne to keepe vs warme, and to make Robes to Adorne our Princes: But can our Kingdome want that excellent, vſefull, and commendable commodity of her owne *Engliſh Leather*.

We haue amongſt vs, a kinde of humble (though ſometimes complementally cogging) prouerbiall ſpeech, when to ſhew how well we wiſh to a man or woman, we ſay, *I would lay my hands vnder his feete to do him good*. What ſubmiſſion can bee greater? what freer expreſſion of loue, duty, and ſeruice? Now if *Leather* were able to do no more but this, to lay it ſelfe vnder our feet, were it not ſufficient?

If no vſe could bee made of *Leather*, but out of it onely to cut and faſhion Bootes and Shooes, what an vniuerſall benefit were this to our Country? It reaches from the King downewards to his meaneſt Vaſſals, and aſcends from the Common Subiect vp to the Prince and Noble-man.

Suppoſe we had no *Leather*, either of our owne, or from any other Nation: and that then neceſſity compelled vs to trauell hard for ſome new inuention, to preſerue our feet from the ground; what could the braine of man find out, (for the foote and legge) ſo fit, ſo pliant, ſo comely to the eye, ſo curious in the wearing, ſo laſting, and ſo contemning all ſorts of weather, as is this Treaſure of the Shooemaker?

In times of Peace, how many thouſand imployments haue we for *Leather*? In times of Warre, are there

there not as many? What can Warre performe without it? And what not vndergo hauing the free vſe of it?

All our Ancient *Engliſh* Kings, all our former Parliaments, all the Noblity, Clergy, Iudges, and the learned Wits of the land, would neuer haue enacted ſo many, ſo ſeuere, and ſuch polliticke Lawes to barre the Tranſportation of *Engliſh Leather*, into any forraigne Dominions, but that they well knew how beneficial a commodity it was to their owne Kingdom, being kept at home, & how preiudiciall it would proue to the State, if euer it were ſuffered to be conſumed abroad.

How many Millions (within the bounds of this little Iland) of Men, Women, and Children, eate their bread, by the ſweat of their labour, who deale onely in this *Leathrne* commodity?

There is no City in *England*, no corporation, but haue hands working at this Tan-fatt: The kingdome is by their induſtry generally furniſhed; and how *London* thriues by them, witneſſe our Faires, by the Cart-loades of *Leather* brought into Leaden-Hall, Smithfield, and other places, and all bought vp within three dayes at moſt?

How many Maſters, beſides Men-ſeruants, in and about this Honourable and populous City, would be inforced to leaue *London*, and looſe their freedomes, or elſe runne into baſe & deſperate courſes, ſhould they giue ouer their Trading in *Leather*? How many Profeſſions were vndone, wanting the vſe of it? How many rich Houſholdes would bee

ſhutte vp, as in a time of ſickneſſe? And though the perſons might happily not be miſt, yet their labours would. How many Occupations and Manuall Trades, muſt be left-handed and go lame, if *Leather* (which is the ſtaffe they partly leane vpon) bee taken from them?

Take a ſuruey of theſe few, *Et ab vno, diſce omnes.*

Shoomakers, } Get their maintenance
and Curriers, } onely by *Leather.*

Theſe Trades might want worke were it not for *Leather.*

Booke binders.
Sadlers.
Vpholſters,
Budget-makers.
Truncke-makers.
Belt-makers.
Caſe-makers.
Woll-Card makers.
Sheath makers.
Hawkes-Hood-makers.
Scabberd-makers.
Box-makers.
Cabinet makers,
Bottle and lacke makers.
Girdlers.
Glouers.

And

And now within the compaſſe of a few yeeres, thoſe vpſtart Trades:

Coach makers,
And Harneſſe makers for Coach Horſes.

And let thus much (being but little in wordes, though enough in ſubſtance) ſerue to proue the generall & neceſſary vſe of *Leather*. Now to the abuſe.

Of the Abuſes of Leather.

AS darkneſſe ſhoues away Light, and as the beſt working phyſicke hath poyſon in it, ſo the moſt wholeſome lawes, may bee peruerted, corrupted, confounded, and condemned, as pureſt waters grow thicke, by being troubled.

Sithence then, that theſe few following Actes (eſtabliſhed by all the Wiſedome, Care, and Prouidence of former times, and ſeruing but as a taſt to a 1000 more,) ſtand vp as proofes, that the goodlieſt buildings may be vndermined and blowne vp: It is no meruaile, if this weake one, and poore one of *Leather* be likewiſe ſhaken, and in danger to be confounded.

The vſe of *Leather* hath his place before: Now do but caſt your eyes, on this otherſide, and behold what Abuſes do attend vppon it.

They are not many, yet able enough to doe too much miſchiefe: Is it not ſtrange, that our Kingdome,

dome, being as plentifully ſtored with *Leather*, as any one part of the world, there ſhould here notwithſtanding bee a dearth of *Leather*? Are not Bootes and Shooes (which euery man, woman, and child, muſt of neceſſity haue) ſold at extreame, vnuſuall, and intollerable prices? Inſomuch that the Rich complaine of the exceſſiue deareneſſe, and the Poore cannot reach to the honour of a new payre.

How comes this to paſſe? doth the Abuſe ſpring from Tranſportation of our *Leather* into forraigne Countryes, which hath in all our Kings Reignes, (as ſhalbe ſhowne hereafter) beene forbidden, and is ſtill forbidden? yet what cannot golden hookes plucke away from vs, to ſerue ſtrangers beyond the ſeas, yea our greateſt enemies.

This (if it be true, as it is to be feared) is a Grand Abuſe.

But is not our wanton, and prodigall expence of it at home, as great an Abuſe, or greater then the former? I beleeue any man may ſafely ſay ſo, when hee doth but looke vpon our infinite numbers of Coaches: What prodigall ſpending of *Leather* is there made in couering but one Coach, and cutting out the Harneſſe for it? And this *Leather*, is not the meaneſt ſort or worſt, but the principall and ſtrongeſt, which might otherwiſe ſerue both for ſooling *leather*, and vpper *leather*.

It is thought (and tis eaſie to be knowne) that in *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and the parts adioyning, are maintained at leaſt 5000 Coaches and Caroaches; to the furniſhing of which throughout with *leather*,

are

are consumed 5000 Hides of Leather. And if these two places onely spoyle so much, what doth the whole Kingdome, sithence Pride leapes into her Chariot in euerie Shiere, Towne, and Citie?

Euerie priuate Gentleman now is a *Phaeton*, and must hurrie with his thundring Caroch along the Streetes, as that proud Boy

Or if this be not a wasting, decaying, and abuse of Leather, what shall we thinke of the prodigalitie of our Legges and Feet? What ouer-lauish spending of Leather is there in Bootes and Shooes? To either of which is now added a French proud superfluitie of Galloshes.

The wearing of Bootes is not the abuse, but the generallitie of wearing, and the manner of cutting Bootes out with huge, flouenly, vnmanerly, and immoderate tops.

For the generall walking in Bootes, it is a pride taken vp by the Courtier, and is descended downe to the Clowne. The Merchant and the Mechanicke walke in Bootes. Many of our Clergie either in neat Bootes, or Shooes and Galloshes. Vniuersitie Schollers maintaine the fashion likewise. Some Citizens (out of a scorne not to be Gentile) goe euerie day Booted. Attorneys, Lawyers Clarkes, Seruingmen, all sorts of Men delight in this wastfull wattonnesse.

Wastfull I may well call it, for one payre of Bootes eats vp the Leather of six payre of reasonable mens Shooes.

How many thousand payre of Bootes are worne in *London* and *Westminster* in a yeere? They cannot be numbred.

But if there were but one thousand paire worne, in them are consumed six thousand paire of Shooes, the Soles onely excepted, for it is meant onely six thousand vpper Leathers.

Is not this (thinke you) an excessiue deuowring, and an exceeding abuse of Leather? If this be not, I know not what can be.

Besides, how many seuerall new paire of Bootes doth some one man lauishly weare out in one yeere.

If these things (these abuses) were not, the Poore might goe as well shodde as the Rich, and Leather would be sold at a reasonable rate, which now carries a higher price then euer was knowne in *England*.

Abuses

Abuſes of Leather Markets.

TO theſe abuſes of Leather, adde the abuſes of Markets, where Hides and Leather are ſold: And to auoid the nomination of too many places, (for theſe diſorders ſpread all ouer the Kingdome) let *Leaden Hall* onely be prickt downe, for the circle and center, in which all theſe diuelliſh abuſes are coniured vp: of which, this is a maine one, *viz.*

The Market is full of excellent Leather (ſtrong Backes, and good vpper Leathers) all this in the Morning lyes vnſealed. Then into the Market, enter a crew of Ancient, Carefull, Good men; Ancient in Villanie, Carefull to get Wealth (but not caring whom to vndoe) Good to themſelues, but Bad members to a Common-wealth: Citizens by Title, Cordwayners or Shoomakers by Profeſſion.

And theſe are not aboue eight or ten in number, Rich in Purſe, Poore in Conſcience; Full of Gold, Emptie of Goodneſſe. Theſe eight or ten (no matter what their number is, ſo they were honeſt) ſtalke ſeuerally vp and down the Market, and ſpying where the heapes of beſt Leathers are, a price is beaten in the Tanners eare, but the cloſing vp of the bargaine muſt be at the Tauerne: where they and the Tanners meet, haue a Breakefaſt of 30 or 40.s. (which the Tanners or they eaſily diſcharge) and there, the Leather is bought before it be ſealed (which ought not to be.) But then a Sealer is ſent for, a Crowne clapt into his hand (where, not halfe is his due) to

goe and dispatch: which being done, euerie Shoomaker comes in, and seeing it sealed, cheapens, but cannot buy, 'Tis sold (they say) already: And so on a suddaine, all is swept away to the Ware-houses or Sellers of these vnconscionable Ingroffers.

So that if a Shoomaker that brings but 4 or 5.li. to the Market (his estate happily reaching no higher) is inforced to buy Leather of these Cormorants at such rates as they please to set them.

The hurts done by these men, are many; and whole Families smart and want through their greedinesse: Yet, the mischiefe they do, comes not alone; for heres another abuse followes.

The poorer sort of Tanners, they seeing the Market swept of all the best Leather, hold vp their worst Hides, at as deere a rate, as the best were payd for: And so the said Shoomaker is glad to buy ill ware, and pay deere for it too, or else goe home, and doe nothing.

Another abuse is, That euerie weeke are bought and carried away from the Market, 3 or 400 raw Hydes at the least; which being conueyed in Carts to certaine ends of the Towne, are there first dryed, and then salted, and then sent into seuerall Counties to bee tanned, but are neuer againe brought vnto *London*; By which meanes, the Market of the City is cheated of much good ware in a yeere, and the Tradesman thereby hindred, if not vndone.

The

The good that may arise by reformation of these Abuses.

IF it would please the High Court of Parliament, to take into consideration, a redresse of these Wrongs, Disorders, and Abuses; by restraynıng this prodigall wasting of Leather,

1 The prizes of Bootes and Shoes, would in a verie short time be abated.

2 Our Countrey would be abundantly furnished with this benefitiall, and needfull Comoditie.

3 The knitting of worsted, and woollen Stockins (now much decayed throughout the whole Kingdome) greatly put in practise.

4 An infinite number of poore Children (which now goe begging vp and downe) be set at worke.

5 Tradesmen and Shopkeepers, in all our Cities, haue quicker doings.

6 The ancient Company of Hosiers, who in former times liued richly by cutting out of Kerseys, into Cloth Stockins, but are now vtterly in a manner extinguished, might be set vp againe, to the good, and maintenance of many hundreds of Families, who might bee set at worke, onely to serue their Shops with those kinds of wares.

7 And lastly by this meanes, our owne Countrey Commodities might be kept at home, in full aboundance, whereas now, they are conueyd away, into other Kingdomes, to furnish them, whilst we feele the scarcitie.

If the Masters and Wardens of the Companies of Sadlers, Cordwayners, and Curriers, might bee examined, what they know touching these Abuses, how they come, and from whom, and by what wayes these mischiefes may bee prevented; No question is to bee made, but an easie path might bee beaten out, to doe a generall good to our Nation, because they are men better informed in these Misteries then any others.

The

The Statutes enacted in seuerall Kings Reignes, touching Leather.

Anno 27. *H.* 8. *Cap.* 14.

NO manner of Estranger or Denizen shall pack, or cause to be backed any manner of *Leather*, to be conueyed ouer the Seas out of this Realme, *Wales*, or other the Kings Dominions, otherwise then in this Act is expressed; That is to say, That all such *Leather* shal be hereafter packed, by a Packer sworne in euerie such Port where any *Leather* shall be shipped, to be conueyed out of this Realme, *Wales*, or other the Kings dominions, vpon paine of forfeiture of all such *Leather*, *&c.*

No Tanner within this Realme, *Wales*, or other the Kings Dominions, or other persons occupying or hauing a Tanhouse, shall from henceforth send, or cause to be conueyed ouer the Sea, by way of Merchandize (or otherwise) any manner of *Leather*, tanned, or vntanned, vpon paine of forfeiture of all such *Leather*, or the value thereof.

Nor that any person or persons, at any time hereafter shall carry ouer the Sea out of this Realme, &c. any salt or vntanned Hide, or any *Leather* called Backe or Sole *Leather*, *&c.*

Anno 2. *Ed.* 6. *Cap.* 11. An Act was made for true tanning of *Leather*.

An Act enacted in *Anno* 3. *Ed.* 6. *Cap.* 6. That it shall be lawfull to diuers Artificers there named, to buy

buy and sell tanned *Leather* curried or not curried, so that such should be conuerted by the Buyers into wares within the Kings Dominions.

Againe in *Anno* 5. *Ed* 6. *Cap.* 15. No person or persons, shall ship or cause to be shipped (to the intent to carrie, transport, or conuey ouer the Seas as Merchandize to bee sold or exchanged there) any Shooes, Bootes, Buskins, Startups, or Slippers, vpon paine to forfeit all and euerie such Shooes, &c.

Againe *Anno* 1. *Eliz. Cap.* 10. An Act was made that the carrying of Leather, Tallow, and raw Hides out of this Realme for Merchandize should bee Felony.

There was a Statute made concerning Cordwayners and Shoomakers in 25. *Ed.* 3. *Cap.* 4.

Another in 13. *Rich.* 2. *Cap.* 12.

Another in 4. *H.* 4. *Cap.* 35.

Another in 2. *H.* 6. *Cap.* 7.

Another in 4. *Ed.* 4. Intituled, Cordwayners and Coblers.

Another in 1. *H.* 7. Called, An Act against Tanners and Cordwayner.

Another in 19. *H.* 7. Intituled, For Curriers and Cordwayners.

Another in 3. *H.* 8.

Another in 5. *H.* 8. Intituled, An Act for Strangers for buying of Leather in open Market.

Another in the 14. or 15. *H.* 8. Intituled, An Act concerning the libertie of Cordwayners and Shoomakers.

Another in 21. *H.* 8. Intituled, An Act concerning

ning Tanners and Butchers.

Another in 24. *H.*8. Intituled, An Act concerning true Tanning and Currying of Leather.

Another to the ſame purpoſe, *Anno* 2 & 3. *Ed.*6. *Cap.*9.

Another in 4. *Ed.*6. Intituled, An Act for buying of rough Hides and Calues skins.

Another in 1. *Eliz.* Where it was enacted, That it ſhal not be lawful for any perſon or perſons to lade, ſhip, or carry into any Veſſell or Ship (or otherwiſe) any Leather, Tallow, or raw Hides, of intent to tranſport or carry the ſame into any place or places of the parts beyond the Seas, or into the Realme of *Scotland*, by Land or by Seas, other then *Scottiſh* Hides, vpon the forfeiture, &c. And the Owners of the ſaid Ships or Veſſels, knowing of ſuch offence, to forfeit the ſaid Ships or Veſſels, with all their Apparell and furniture to them and euerie of them belonging. And the Maſters and Marriners knowing of ſuch offence, to forfeit all their Goods, and Chattels, and to haue imprisonment by the ſpace of one yeere without Bayle or Mainprize.

Then in 4. *Iacob. Cap.*6. There is a long Act ſet downe touching Cordwayners, Curriers, Tanners, Butchers, and Leather, ſpreading into many and ſeuerall Branches, *viz.*

No Butcher by himſelfe, or by any other perſon, ſhall gaſh, ſlaughter, or cut any Hide of any Oxe, Bull, Steere, or Cow.

No Butcher ſhall water any Hide (except in the Monethes of *June*, *July*, and *August*) nor ſhall offer to

put to ſale any Hyde putrefied.

No Butcher ſhall vſe the Craft, Feat, or Myſterie of a Tanner.

No Tanner ſhall vſe the Craft, or Myſterie of a Shoomaker, Currier, Butcher, or any other Artificer vſing, or exeerciſing cutting, or working of Leather.

No Tanner ſhall ſuffer any Hide or Skin to lye in the Lime till the ſame be ouer-limed: Nor ſhall put any Hides or Skins into any Tan-fats before the Lime be well and perfectly ſoked: Nor ſhall vſe any ſtuffe about the Tanning of Leather, but onely Aſh-barke, Oke-barke, Tapwort, Malt, Meale, Lime, Culuer-dung, or Hen-dung: Nor ſhall ſuffer his Leather to be layd, or to hang, or to lye wet in any Froſt; Nor ſhall partch or dry his Leather with the heate of the Fire, or of the Summer Sunne: Nor ſhall ſuffer the Hide, for vtter Sole-Leather, to lye in the Woozes, any leſſe time then nine Months at the leaſt.

No Tanner ſhall Tan any Hide, Calues skin, or Sheepes skin with hot or warme Woozes, vpon forfeiture of 10.li. for euerie ſuch offence, and alſo for euerie ſuch offence ſtand in the Pillory three Market dayes.

No Currier ſhall currie any kind of Leather in the Houſe of any Shoomaker, but onely in his own Houſe, and that muſt be ſcituate in a Corporate or Market-Towne: Nor ſhall currie any kind of Leather, except it be well and perfectly tanned: Nor currie any Hide being not perfectly dryed after his wet Seaſon. In which wet Seaſon he ſhall not vſe

any ſtale Vrine, or any other deceiptfull mixture, nor currie any Leather meet for vtter Sole-Leather with any other ſtuffe then hard Tallow: Nor currie any Leather for ouer Leather, and inner Soles, but with good ſtuffe being freſh and not ſalt: Nor ſhall burn or skald any Hide or Leather in the currying: Nor ſhall ſhaue any Leather too thin: Nor ſhall gaſh or hurt any Leather in the ſhauing.

No Currier ſhall vſe the Myſterie of a Tanner, Cordwayner, Shoomaker, Butcher, or any other Artificer, vſing, or cutting of Leather.

No Cordwayner or Shoomaker ſhall make or cauſe to be made any Bootes, Shooes, Buskins, Startups, Slippers, or Pantoffles, or any part of them of Engliſh Leather, wet curried (other then Deere skins Calue skins, or Goat skins dreſt like Spaniſh Leather) but of Leather well and truly tanned, and curried ſubſtantially, ſewed with good Thread, well twiſted and made, and ſufficiently waxed with Wax well rozzend, and the ſtitches hard drawne with Hand-Leathers, without mingling ouer-Leathers, that is to ſay, part of the ouer-Leather being of Neats Leather, and part of Calues Leather.

No Cordwayner or Shoomaker ſhall put into any Shooes, Bootes, &c. (as before) any Leather made of Sheepe skin, Bull hide, or Horſe hide, nor in the vpper Leathers of any Shooes, Startups, &c. or in the nether part of any Bootes (the inner part of the Shooes onely excepted) any part of any Hide, from which the Sole-Leather is cut, called the Wombe, Necke, Shancke, Flanke, Powle, or Cheeke: Nor

put in the vtter Sole, any other Leather, then the best of the Oxe, or Steere Hide: Nor into the inner Sole any other Leather, then the Wombes, Necks, Poule or Cheekes: Nor into the Treſwels of the double-ſoled Shooes, other then the Flanckes of Hides.

Moreouer the Maſters and Wardens of Cordwayners, Curriers, Girdlers, and Sadlers of the City of *London*, vpon paine to forfeit 40. li. for euerie yeere they make default, ſhall once euerie quarter, make a true ſearch and view within *London*, and within three miles of the ſame, for all Boots, Shoos, Buskins, &c. made of tanned Leather, and if they be not made, and wrought as they ought to be, or inſufficiently curried, then the ſaid Maſters and Wardens haue power to take, ſeize, and carrie away to their common Halles all ſuch Bootes, Shooes, Wares, Stuffe, or other things. And that all Coach-makers dwelling in *London*, or within three miles of the Citie, ſhall be vnder the ſuruey and ſearch of the Maſters and Wardens of the Companie of the Sadlers.

Moreouer that the Lord Maior of *London*, and the Aldermen, are vpon paine of 40. li. yeerely to appoint eight perſons free of the Cordwayners, Curriers, Sadlers, or Girdlers (of the which one ſhall be a Sealer, and the reſt Searchers) to view and ſearch euerie tanned Hide, Skin, or Leather which ſhall be brought to *Leaden Hall* market, and there if they find them ſufficiently tanned, and thorowly dryed, then to ſeale them: or being found defectiue, to ſeize it: And within ſix dayes after the ſeizing,

ſuch

ſuch Hides or Leathers bee reuiewed by certaine Tryers; whereof there are two of the better ſort of the Companie of the Cordwayners, two of the better ſort of the Companie of Curriers, and the other two of the better ſort of the Tanners vſing *Leaden Hall* market.

Theſe Searchers and Sealers for feare of corruption, are not ſuffered to continue in the Office longer then two yeeres. Taking for the ſearching, ſealing, and regeſtring of euerie ten Hides, Backes, or Buttes of Leather, with the Necks, Wombes, and Dibbins, or other peeces of offall cut from the Backes, or Buttes, of the Seller two pence, and of the Buyer as much.

Now for auoyding of all ambiguities and doubts which may grow and ariſe vpon the definition and interpretation of this word Leather, It is enacted, &c. That the Hides and Skins of Oxe, Steere, Bull, Cow, Calfe, Deere (red and fallow) Goats, and Sheepe being tanned or tawed, and euerie ſalt Hide, is, ſhall be, and euer hath beene reputed and taken for Leather.

All currying and dreſſing of Leather, commonly called dry currying, and frizzing, being conſtrued to be dreſſing and currying of Leather after the maner of Spaniſh Leather.

To ſhew how carefull this Parliament was to keep this excellent commoditie of Leather to our ſelues (the want of it being ſo hurtfull) heare what the Act ſpeakes againſt Tranſportation.

It is enacted, &c. That if any Leather, wrought, cut, or vnwrought, to the intent to be sold, or bartred, shall hereafter vnlawfully be transported, or purposed to be transported, into the parts beyond the Sea, from, and out of any Port, Hauen, or Creeke of this Realme, or *Wales*; euerie Controller, Customer, Surueyour, Collector of Tonnage, Poundage, and the Searchers, and the Deputie of any of them, or any other persons hearing or knowing by any waies of any Leather meant to be transported from any place within his Office, and do not his best endeauor to seize the same, or being transported, doe not disclose, or cause the same to be disclosed within fortie dayes next after such knowledge, or hearing of the same, in some Court of Record, so as the offendour may be punished according to the Lawes in that case prouided, shall for euerie the first offence committed against this Article, forfeit 100.li. and for the second offence, his Office.

Againe, Euerie Customer, Officer, or Officers Deputie, that shall make any false certificate of any Leather in any Port, Creeke, or Place of this Realm, shall also forfeit for euerie such offence 100.li.

Now whereas by the couetousnesse of diuers, Regrating and ingrossing tanned Leather, and selling it againe at excessiue prices (to Sadlers, and such other Artificers, making Wares of tanned Leather) those Wares bee growne to vnreasonable prices, Be it therefore, &c. That no person or persons, of what estate, degree, or condition soeuer he or they be,

be, ſhall buy or ingroſſe, or cauſe to be bought or ingroſſed any kind of tanned Leather, to the intent to ſell the ſame againe, vpon paine to forfeit the ſaid Leather ſo bought: Prouided, &c. That all Sadlers, Girdlers, Cordwayners, and all other Artificers, Such as make Males, Bougets, Leather-Pots, Tankerds, Boare-Hides, or any other Wares of Leather, ſhall or may buy all ſuch kind of Tanned Leather.

FINIS.

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by diuers Mercha[illegible]s, or
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be, shall buy or ingrosse, or cause to be bought or ingrossed any kind of tanned Leather, to the intent to sell the same again, upon paine to forfeit the said Leather so bought: Provided, &c. That all Saddlers, Cordlers, Cordwayners, and all other Artificers, Such as make Males, Budgets, Leather-Pots, Tankards, Boote Hides, or any other Wares of Leather shall or may buy all such kind of Tanned Leather, &c.

FINIS.

The generall Greeuance of all *England*, Man, Woman, and Child: to the High and Honourable Court of PARLIAMENT.

WHereas we your poore Petitioners, ioyntly with one vnaminity, humbly desire a reformation of this generall and great greeuance of late, for and in consideration of the great abuse of Transportation of raw Hides, Tanned kins of great growth, & Calue skins; all which are Transported in most vnreasonable manner, and vnder the colour of the Transporting of some hundred douzens, many thousands are daily Transported; and that in such an excessiue manner, that not only all skinnes that are brought into the Market, of Leaden-Hall, and elsewhere, are so Inhansed in price, that they bee of late raised trible to the price they haue beene; but that by secret bargaines, almost all sorts of Leather bee bought vnder hand in all Countries before they come to Markets to be sold, by diuers Merchants, or broker Merchants for to be transported. And moreouer, it is for certaine knowne, that diuers Dutch men come daily ouer, and imploy poore Shoomakers, Curriers, and Coblers, to be their bargaine-driuers in all chiefe Faires, for great percels of ware, and summes of money, whilst they themselues sit priuate in Tauerns, or Tipling houses, to pay the money when others haue driuen the bargaine: by which meanes the Faires and Markets bee so forestalled, that his Maiesties Subiects cannot haue the benefit of the Faires and Markets, as in times past, the said commodities being bought out of his Maiesties subiects hands. And likewise of late dayes some Leather-sellers of London, which doe not cut or worke or vse Leather; finding the great benefit and profit to bee got by transporting; haue and doe, contrary to all equity or right, buy, or cause in priuate to be bought vp, what they conueniently may: so that vnlesse there be some speedy course taken, by this Honourable Court now assembled; it is most likely that all Mechanickes that get their liuings by the said vse of Leather, are likely to fall to vtter ruine and decay, and this commodity to bee Inhansed to such an vnreasonable price, that our Enemies shall go well shod, and we goe bare-foot, and be vtterly impouerished in that commodity, and all trades which in times past haue flourished by Leather, are now like to bee vtterly ruinate and ouerthrowne. Therefore we his Maiesties pore subiects, in most humble manner, desire in commiseration of our poore wiues and children, to take into consideration this our extreame greeuance, and to prouide for some speedy Remedy, and wee shall daily pray for your prosperous successe.

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and Child: to the High and Honourable Court
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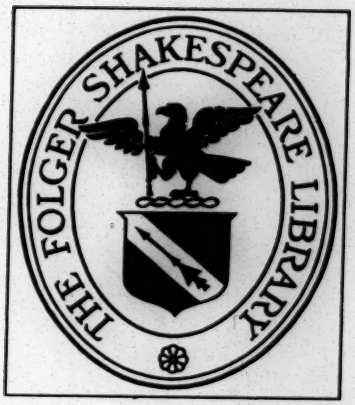
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